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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Altenburg Airfield

EVALUATION 25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1A

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 29 January 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. Between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on 4 January 1951, the Altenburg (N 51/K 27) airfield was observed from its southern edge. The cloud ceiling broke open about noon and the temperature rose almost to the freezing point from -6°C. The entire field was covered with snow about 10 cm deep.
2. Twenty-seven, twin-engine transports were parked in two rows on the old parking sites. * There was intensive flying until 2 p.m. ** Local residents said that several flights were made on the preceding days. The take-offs and landings were not made on the regular runway. The runway, covered with snow, was not marked. A large black cloth spread on the snow-covered field served as a landing cross. There were red flags set up north of the cloth at intervals of about 15 meters. These flags marked a landing strip which was used as a runway. The aircraft taxied individually from the northern end of the parking site, where they were lined up in rows from north to south, to the take-off point and lined up at the southern end after landing. Two soldiers gave the planes the take-off signals by raising their right arms. The take-offs were made at intervals ranging from 10 to 40 seconds and the flights lasted up to 60 minutes. About noon, three aircraft flew in formation for about 20 minutes. No fuel installations or fuel trucks were seen. It was not observed that the aircraft were refueled. The flying gave the impression of an improvised airfield with few facilities but the speed of operation was unusually high.
3. No changes on the field installations were observed, and no construction was in progress. The building material previously piled up on the field was removed. Six sentry posts of two men each were seen on the field, three of whom were posted in the vicinity of the former Leina Reich Labor Service Camp. Trucks were seen on the road running south of the field. ***

* Comment. The occupation of the airfield has not changed since December 1950. One air transport regiment, equipped with more than 32 IL-2s, is still stationed there.

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CONFIDENTIAL

Document No. 02

No Change in Class. ☐

☐ Declassified

Class. Changed To: TS

Auth: US 70 2

Date: 10/6/78


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**  Comment. Flying was confirmed by another source. The transports take-off from and land at, the field although it is covered with snow.

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